

December 2025

# Payday Super Update

Presented by Emma McCosh

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## Agenda for today



**Timeline** 

Legislative update

**Qualified Earnings** 

Super Stream 3.0

Payday Super and Defined Benefits

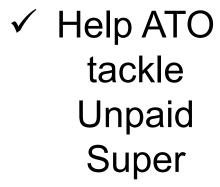
Getting ready

## **Payday Super Timeline**

Date	Event
May 2023	Payday Super was announced
Sep 2024	Treasury published the Payday Super fact sheet
Mar 2025	Exposure Draft Legislation was released
Oct 2025	ATO Small Business Clearing House "soft" close
Oct 2025	Government introduced the Payday Superannuation Bill
Nov 2025	Bills passed Parliament and received Royal Assent
July 1, 2026	Payday Super takes effect

### Why Payday Super?







✓ Compounding earnings sooner



✓ Help employees track their entitlements

## Legislation



→ Key highlights for you to know

From 1 July 2026: You'll need to pay super on payday (the day you pay salary or wages) Timing matters:
Super must reach
your employee's
super fund within 7
business days and
be ready to allocate
to their account

If funds can't be allocated: the super fund must send the money back within 3 business days

Treasury Laws Amendment (Payday Superannuation) Bill 2025

### **Employer's obligations**

#### Pay super quickly

Employers must ensure that contributions are received by employees' complying super funds **within 7 business days** of paying employees their qualifying earnings (QE) and are "able to be allocated".

(Example of missing TFN from Explanatory Memorandum)

#### New staff or fund change?

For new staff and for members that have changed super funds, the period is extended to 20 days.

#### **Keep good records**

Employers need to keep records for 7 years



## **Qualifying earnings**

Qualifying Earnings (QE) include:



Your employee's ordinary time earnings (OTE)



Salary sacrifice amounts that would have been OTE



Other pay items, like performance bonuses



All commissions

Also, make sure you check the updated definition of "employee" under the new rules.

#### **Penalties**

If super isn't paid in full and on time, you'll need to pay the Super Guarantee Charge (SGC).

SGC is made up of the following components:

- Outstanding SG shortfall based on ordinary time earnings
- Notional Earnings interest to be calculated daily (General Interest Charge)
- Administrative uplift a charge to reflect the cost of enforcement
- Choice loading if funds are not paid to the member's chosen super fund.

#### **Exceptions to the rule**

- New employees will have their due date deferred to 20 days
- Payments made to employees outside of the regular payment period
- Exceptional circumstances that affect multiple employers such as natural disasters, or widespread outages of information.

## ATO Draft Practical Compliance Guideline for Year 1

## Current expected approach is detailed here:

https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID= DPC/PCG2025D5/NAT/ATO/00001&PiT=99991231 235958#H14

Table 2: Requirements for each risk zone

Risk zone	Requirements
Low	<ul> <li>An employer will be in the low-risk zone where all of the following have been met:</li> <li>the employer attempted to ensure that all of their individual base SG shortfalls in relation to their employees were nil for the QE day, by making on-time contributions equal to or exceeding the individual SG amount</li> <li>some or all of the eligible contributions were not received by the relevant fund (and allocable for the benefit of the employee) on time</li> <li>these eligible contributions are received by the relevant funds and allocable for the benefit of the employees as soon as reasonably practicable, resulting in the employer having individual final SG shortfalls of nil for all employees for the QE day at that time.</li> </ul>
Medium	An employer will be in the medium-risk zone where the employer does not meet the criteria to be in the low-risk zone, but the individual final SG shortfalls for all their employees are nil by 28 days after the end of the quarter in which the qualifying earnings were paid.
High	An employer will be in the high-risk zone where the employer does not meet the requirements to be in the low-risk or medium-risk zone.  An employer will be in the high-risk zone if they have one or more individual final SG shortfalls greater than nil for their employees by 28 days after the end of the quarter in which the qualifying earnings were paid.

## SuperStream upgrades (3.0)

#### What's changing?

#### Quick error alerts

 Employers will get clear messages to fix issues and resubmit contributions fast.

#### Early updates for payroll systems

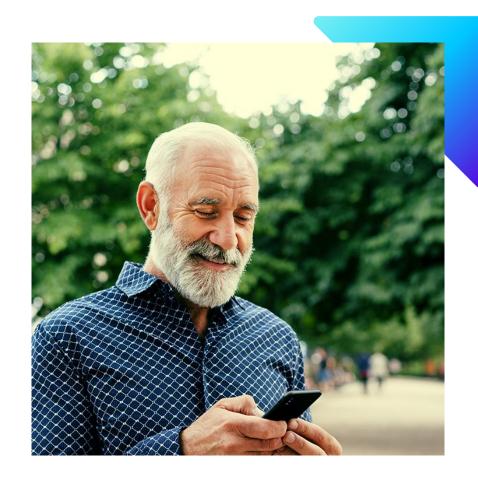
 Software will receive advance notice of major super fund changes (like mergers) so you can plan and redirect contributions correctly.

#### Member verification

 Payroll software can check if an employee's fund details are valid before sending money.

#### Real-time payments

 Contributions will be made through the New Payments Platform (NPP). All super funds must accept NPP payments by 1 July 2026.



### **Employer preparations**



Plan for more frequent payments if your super contribution cycles are not already aligned with pay cycles



Identify and rectify recurring errors



Assess cash-flow impact



Consider your onboarding process

#### Maximum contributions base





Currently set at \$7,500 per quarter for those earning \$62,500 per quarter or above.



Employers can stop contributing for the financial year once they pay the maximum base depending on employment contracts and if you apply the maximum contributions base or not.



From July 2026, maximum contributions base (MCB) will be applied annually, rather than quarterly.

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#### **Payday Super and Defined Benefits**

Schedule 1, Part 1, Subdivision C Section 18A(3) Amendments of the Super Guarantee (Administration Act) 2025 as part of the "Payday Super" Bill confirms (abridged):

If, on a QE day for the employer and the employee have a Benefit Certificate in place for a defined benefit fund which covers the staff member;

...treat the scheme as having received, on the QE day, a notional contribution made by the employer for the benefit of the employee that is equal to: Amount of the qualifying earnings x Notional contribution rate.

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/legislation/bills/r7373\_aspassed/toc\_pdf/25075b01.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf

## **Further reading**

View the Equip Super Payday Super landing page

Payday superannuation | Australian Taxation Office

Payday Super Hub - ASFA

PCG 2025/D5 | Legal database

**The Amendment Bill** 

Please reach out to your Relationship Manager for further assistance.





## Thank you





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